

Why are all the Gas Cans at this store Spill-Proof?

Beginning January 1, 2005, all gas cans sold in Maine must:

- Automatically shut off when the target tank is full;
- Automatically close and seal when removed from the tank;
- Remain closed and sealed when not dispensing fuel;
- Have only one opening for both filling and pouring; and
- Be made from a material that reduces gas vapors that permeate the container.

Why is a spill-proof gas can better?

- **Saves Fuel (and money!)**—fuel can leak, spill and evaporate from conventional gas cans.
- **Protects Your Family's Health**—gasoline vapors contain a number of toxic compounds that can be harmful to your health.
- **Child-Safe**—spill-proof gas cans can protect children from accidental spills and ingestion.
- **Better Indoor Air**—spill-proof cans reduce the odors and vapors that conventional cans release into the air in your car, garage or shed.
- **Better Outdoor Air**—spill-proof gas cans reduce the amount of vapors released into the air, vapors that contribute to ground-level ozone ("smog").
- **Protects Water**—small gasoline spills can contaminate well water with toxic substances.

Can I still use my old can?

Yes, you can continue to use your old gas can for as long as it lasts, but you may want to consider replacing it to protect your family's health.

What about Diesel and Kerosene Cans?

Maine DEP's spill-proof portable fuel container regulation is intended to apply only to containers designed and used for storing and transporting gasoline.

What do I do with my old can?

If you choose to replace a leaky old can with a new spill-proof model, make sure that you use up all the gas in the old container (do not pour it out on the ground) and then air out the flammable vapors before you dispose of it as solid waste.

For more safe gas handling and storage tips, visit **Gas Tips**
(www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/homeowner/gas_tips.htm)

How can I find out more?

Chapter 155: Portable Fuel Container Spillage Control. Gas can regulation.
(www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/06/096/096c155.doc)

Contact Jeff Crawford or Andrea Lani, Bureau of Air Quality, 287-2437

